

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 17, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council president pro tem Blake O'Halloran called the regular council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. EST as Paul Leonard was not present. Present in addition to O'Halloran were James Bracewell, Frank Giglio and Deborah Lindley. Paul Leonard Jr. was not in attendance as he was out of town.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Giglio moved, seconded by Lindley to adopt the October 17, 2018 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Lindley moved, seconded by Giglio to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 19, 2018 with a correction to the minutes under Golf Course Children's Use Policy – Weekends And Holidays During Summer Months to add "On holidays when busy, we will have a starter and a ranger". Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION**

**GRAND BEACH NEW BUFFALO SHORELINE ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVES BRIAN BYRNES AND CYNTHIA DENNING**

Grand Beach representative to the New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance, Brian Byrnes said that the group is moving to meet their goal. He introduced Ed Oldis and Ted Grzywacz who updated those in attendance on different grants that the group has applied for to replenish the beaches north of New Buffalo. Oldis said there have been three meetings held at New Buffalo High School and they are videotaped and available on their website, [newbuffaloshorelinealliance.org](http://newbuffaloshorelinealliance.org). People can sign up at the website to become a member of the New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance in order to receive email updates and can also make donations to the group on the website. At the moment there are three things in the works:

- Application for Great Lakes Fish Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) grant. The grant request is for \$15,000,000 and will be decided on October 22
- Permit with the DEQ to review engineering
- Grant application for coastal management for \$3,000,000

Oldis and Grzywacz answered questions from the Council and others in attendance.

They said they have engineered a couple of different ways of building the offshore breakwaters (rock structures) that will run parallel to the shore about 300' out because they are not sure which type will be permitted. One plan is to build 10 structures above water starting in Sunset Shores, and the other plan is to build five in Sunset Shores near the water intake and five in Grand Beach. The decision will be made by the Great Lakes group who will decide if they will give the grant and if so, they will be the ones that engineer it.

The overall plan is to put in 33 of these formations, but the \$15,000,000 if granted is not going to cover the costs. They want to try the initial 10 to see if it will work. Whatever amount is awarded, the group will have to come up with 35% which could come from a combination of city, township, state and private funding. They have looked at a lot of funding options, but until they receive the money, they haven't spent a lot of time on this. They have focused on engineering.

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County Commissioner Ezra Scott gave an update and said that Brigadier General Mark Toy will be coming to look at the shoreline on December 12. Scott and Arie Donkersloot met with Lt. Colonel Greg Turner and Scott Thieme of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and took them to Forest Beach where Donkersloot had begun work on two blow outs. Scott said if the \$15,000,000 grant is given, it will be given during the 2019/2020 budget year and work will have to begin during that time. He said everyone is working hard on this, but the last thing anyone wants are special assessments. He said there are plenty of grants out there that can be tapped into to help pay the 35% match. The biggest problem is with the DEQ and USACE permits.

Grand Beach representative Cindy Denning said that many different people were calling the USACE and nothing was happening, so they formed an alliance and they are working very hard on this. She said what is good for one is good for all after a resident said he was only interested in Grand Beach. The Shoreline Alliance group has weekly conference calls to discuss matters. She said that they want to be involved and want the Council to help the Alliance. Brian Byrnes said there are 420 homes in Grand Beach, but the last time he counted there were 47 donors to the Shoreline Alliance. He said it is important to have the property owners' support and a check for \$50 or \$100 means a lot.

O'Halloran said that from day one, Paul Leonard and Jim Bracewell have been completely involved in trying to work with the New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance. He said the council is very involved and trying to do what they can, and he gives the Shoreline Alliance a lot of credit for what they've been doing.

Bracewell reminded everyone that there was a study regarding the shoreline erosion that was done by the USACE in 2009. This study was funded by Grand Beach property owners, Grand Beach Land Development and home owners' associations.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS**

**BUILDING & ZONING:** Bracewell reported there are seven new homes under construction.

**PARKS & BEACHES:** Giglio reported there has been damage to the Walnut, Lake and Lee Point beach accesses because of the recent bad weather.

**STREETS & WATER:** Leonard was not in attendance.

**POLICE:** Lindley had nothing to report.

**PRO SHOP & GOLF COURSE:** O'Halloran reported that the pro shop and course are closing up as the end of the season draws near. Green fees revenue was down in September, but revenue was up in other areas so we are tracking better than 2016 and down a little from 2017.

### **SERVISCAPE REPORT**

Clay Putnam reported that daily maintenance is still occurring. Greens and tees have been aerified and top dressed. With cooler temperatures and shorter days, we can expect frost delays. If you are going to golf in the morning, make sure to wait until frost has burned off.

### **PERSONNEL REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT & BUILDING INSPECTOR:** Superintendent Bob Dabbs and Building Inspector Bill Lambert were not in attendance.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Police Chief Dan Schroeder had nothing additional to add to his written report.

**BILLS TO BE PAID**

Lindley moved, seconded by Giglio to approve the payment of the bills with the written additions as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**COMMITTEE FOR IRRIGATION STUDY**

O'Halloran said the Village needs to evaluate plan B for the golf course irrigation. He said plan A is the pump house which we've been using for a long time to irrigate the course. Right now we are fighting what is happening with the beach and erosion. The Village is waiting for a permit to install rock to protect the beach and pump house and the goal is to have something in place before winter. The Council has been talking about plan B and now it is more important than ever. The Council needs a committee to study the irrigation. Grand Beach resident John Deaner volunteered at the September meeting to head a committee to study the matter. He has a background in irrigation because his family owned a farm with wells, and he has a long career with Whirlpool and doing some of these types of task force reviews.

**IRRIGATION STUDY OBJECTIVE & SCOPE**

O'Halloran read the irrigation study objective and scope written by John Deaner. O'Halloran said we have had an evaluation of the current system and we have had a diver look at the intake lines. The Village would like to continue to use the pump house, but we need to look at plan B. Deaner has identified additional resources and team members.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Lindley to form a committee for an irrigation study. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**ALARM SYSTEM & PHONE LINE FOR PUMPHOUSE**

O'Halloran said that the pump house doesn't have any type of warning system to alert anyone if something goes wrong at the pumphouse and there are pumps that could be damaged if there was flooding. The maintenance department was able to find an alarm system for the pumphouse.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Lindley to approve an expenditure to purchase alarm equipment for the pump house at a cost not to exceed \$700, and to approve a per month fee of \$10 for the cell phone service and \$30 for monitoring. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – CHIKAMING OPEN LANDS**

O'Halloran said that at the last meeting a McKenna representative was here and said that there were some points that we could not receive when we submitted our grant request due to income levels, but there were other points that could be earned. Per McKenna, the Village could earn 30 additional points by getting a letter from Chikaming Open Lands for their help in the management of the natural resources of the 42 Acres. O'Halloran read the memorandum of understanding from Chikaming Open Lands that was recently submitted to the state.

Lindley moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve the generous offer and Memorandum of Understanding with Chikaming Open Lands. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**GRANT –REQUIREMENT MARKETING 42 ACRES**

O’Halloran stated that per McKenna we could receive an additional 20 points for our grant through marketing. He read the letter of marketing that was written by McKenna. He said that some of the things included in the list are newspaper articles that would take place if we received the grant. He said if the Village receives the state grant, and receives the public funding; it will be a public park.

**EMPLOYEE PAY INCREASES**

Lindley said that there is already a 3% pay increase included in the next budget and a \$1.00 per hour raise for maintenance workers Tim Pendergast and Dale Powell to bring their wage in line with other municipalities. She said that Chief Dan Schroeder has graciously declined his pay increase and that will help in paying the other increases. She said the Council has always given raises and the Village has excellent employees and wants to keep them. Bracewell said that in the middle of the night when people are awakened by the snow plow, they appreciate the work that the guys do. Giglio said that the guys do everything here and get paid half of union wages.

Lindley moved, seconded by O’Halloran to approve a 3% pay increase effective November 1, 2018 with a \$1.00 per hour pay increase for Tim Pendergast and Dale Powell as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**WAGE ORDINANCE #46**

O’Halloran said the wage ordinance lists the job titles and minimum and maximum pay levels and has to be updated from time to time.

O’Halloran moved, seconded by Lindley to approve Wage Ordinance #46 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**AED PURCHASE – SQUAD CARS AND HALL**

Police Chief Dan Schroeder told the Council that he is requesting permission to replace the automatic external defibrillators (AED’s) in the squad cars that are over 15 years old. The Village of Michigan and New Buffalo Township just replaced their units and Michiana also purchased one for their Village Hall. O’Halloran said he saw Sergeant Flick save someone’s life at a wedding reception at Whittaker Woods. Schroeder suggested that the Village purchase a unit for the upper and lower level of the hall.

Bracewell suggested checking with the school to see if they get a better price and also providing CPR training so that the staff knows how to use the equipment. Schroeder said that we are getting the best price, and these are the same units that Michiana bought. He said they are very easy to use and when you push a button, it gives the instructions.

Lindley moved, seconded by O’Halloran to approve the purchase of four AED’s plus 2 mounting brackets at a cost of \$7,080 from Team Life, Inc. using funds that were set aside for tasers and funds from the miscellaneous expense account. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**TRANSFER FUNDS TO CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 17/18**

O’Halloran moved, seconded by Giglio to transfer funds as budgeted for 2017-2018 from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$77,600. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**TRANSFER LOCAL REVENUE SHARING FUNDS TO CAPITAL PROJECTS - \$29,095.42**

Giglio moved, seconded by Bracewell to transfer \$29,095.42 received from the Local Revenue Sharing Board from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

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**BUDGET AMENDMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018- GENERAL FUND, WATER FUND, GOLF FUND, LOCAL STREET FUND, MAJOR STREET FUND, BUILDING FUND AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Lindley to approve the budget amendments for fiscal year 2017/2018 for the General Fund, Water Fund, Golf Fund, Local Street Fund, Major Street Fund, Building Fund and Capital Projects Fund as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**HALL RENTAL REQUEST – STEVEN SLATER, OCTOBER 19, 2018**

Clerk Mary Robertson stated that the hall rental request was withdrawn as Steven Slater will be holding the meet and greet in the Council meeting room instead of in the hall.

**AUDIENCE RECOGNITION**

Lynn Bolanowski spoke about the continued use of the Royal Avenue beach access to bring in rock. She said she received a letter for assessment regarding Michigan Shores water lines and will contact New Buffalo Township about it since her water is provided by Grand Beach.

Paula Kenny asked if there is a candidate forum regarding the upcoming election. Bracewell said if the request would have been made sooner, the president could have made arrangements.

O'Halloran spoke about the charter revision proposals that will be on the ballot on November 6. He said that all of the time spent on the Village Council has always been volunteer time since the Council does not receive any type of compensation. There are two Village proposals on the ballot to amend the charter to allow the Council to receive compensation and to allow the Council to set a per meeting fee for the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Council feels that people that give a lot of their professionalism to the Village should also receive a stipend. O'Halloran said that he and Jim Bracewell will not be affected because they are currently on the Council. The Council felt that all of the other villages and municipalities pay their Council members and some of them get paid quite highly, and whoever does this job in the future deserves to be paid something.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

O'Halloran said the Council received correspondence from John Shannon regarding the 42 Acres.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Giglio moved, seconded by Lindley to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson  
Clerk-Treasurer